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1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
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4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
5	VS. CRIMINAL NO. CCB-08-0091
6	BALRAJ NAIDU
7	DEFENDANT
8	Baltimore, Maryland
9	December 16, 2010
10	
11	The above-entitled case came on for sentencing
12	before the Honorable Catherine C. Blake, United States
13	District Judge
14	
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16	<u>APPEARANCES</u>
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18	For the Government:
19	James G. Warwick, Esquire Rachel Yasser, Esquire
20	racher rabber, hequire
21	For the Defendant:
22	William B. Purpura, Jr., Esquire
23	William D. Parpara, Ol., Doquile
24	
25	Gail A. Simpkins, RPR Official Court Reporter

1 PROCEEDINGS THE COURT: Do you want to call the case, Mr. 2 3 Warwick? MR. WARWICK: Yes, Your Honor. This is the 4 5 matter of the United States of America versus Balraj 6 Naidu, Criminal Number CCB-08-0091. The matter is 7 before the Court for an imposition of sentence. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 8 9 MR. PURPURA: Judge Blake, good morning. 10 THE COURT: Good morning. 11 MR. PURPURA: William Purpura on behalf of 12 Balraj Naidu, who is present with me. We have 13 received the presentence report. We reviewed the 14 presentence report in detail. 15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I am sure, Mr. Warwick, you have reviewed it as 16 17 well? 18 MR. WARWICK: I have. Your Honor, may I just 19 ask the Court to attend to some housekeeping matters 20 first? 21 THE COURT: Certainly. 22 MR. WARWICK: As the Court will recall, the 23 defendant was extradited to the United States only on

defendant was extradited to the United States only or
Counts 2 and 6 of the indictment. Therefore, Counts
1, 3, 4 and 5 need to be dismissed.

1 THE COURT: All right.

MR. WARWICK: The Court dismissed Count 6 on a Rule 29 motion during trial.

Just to clarify for the record, Count 2 of the indictment was submitted to the jury as Count 1, just for purposes of the verdict sheet.

THE COURT: But so far as the docket, it should probably be reflected as Count 2.

MR. WARWICK: As Count 2, yes, exactly.

THE COURT: That's fine.

Well, obviously, as you all know, I have to calculate the Advisory Guideline range. So let me go through the presentence report and see where we have agreements and disagreements.

The offense, of course, Mr. Naidu was convicted of is conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

The base offense level under the Guideline 2M, as in Mary, 5.3 is 26. There is an increase of two under that same Guideline because the conspiracy involved the provision of dangerous weapons or firearms.

Now the presentence report adds a two-level adjustment, upward adjustment for Mr. Naidu being an organizer or leader, and a two-level upward adjustment

for obstruction of justice for allegedly testifying falsely in the course of trial.

Are you pressing either of those, Mr. Warwick?

MR. WARWICK: Your Honor, the government is

pressing the two for role in the offense. I think it

is also colorable, there is a colorable argument as

far as the defendant's testimony.

The defendant did admit certainly on cross-examination what could be construed as all the elements of the crime. However, he did try to minimize his role by repeatedly saying all I did was make phone calls. Everything had to be drawn out of him in detail, but there certainly was a lack of candor, at least in the initial part of his testimony.

So I think the Court could certainly construe that as grounds for obstruction, but I don't think I need to say anything more on that.

But on the role, the government does feel strongly he was an organizer.

THE COURT: How would you rank him as an organizer compared to any of the other people involved in the conspiracy? I don't believe anybody else got that role adjustment.

MR. WARWICK: No, they did not.

The Court will recall from the testimony that

Mr. Santhirajah, who was the financier -- he is the gentleman who is still fighting extradition from Australia on this matter -- he sought out Haniffa Bin Osman, with whom he had somewhat of a business relationship with, and asked Mr. Osman if he could help provide a source of weapons for the LTTE.

Mr. Osman didn't have any contacts. He didn't have any sources for that type of activities. He went to Balraj Naidu. That was in or about January or February of 2006.

It was Mr. Balraj Naidu who brought in others, such as John Johney, who was referenced extensively in the testimony and in the e-mails, and from that point, Mr. Naidu took the lead in trying to find suppliers of arms.

There were trips to Hong Kong. There were trips to Guangzhou, China. There were trips to Indonesia. There were contacts that Mr. Naidu spearheaded to obtain these weapons, several in China, in Thailand, in Indonesia, in the Philippines, as well as reference to someone who could provide arms from North Korea.

The weapons list that originated from Mr.

Santhirajah were sent to all of these people through

Mr. Naidu. He organized the activity with these

various potential sources so that weapons could be

obtained. He spearheaded it.

It was his contacts between Mr. John Johney and the defendant that brought them in contact with several Indonesians, and those Indonesians, you may recall, Bambang Wyoduno and another Bambang Sudito, who, by the way, the United States have tried to identify through the Indonesian authorities, and we have been unsuccessful.

But those two individuals, Bambang Wyoduno and Bambang Sudito, had a source, and they connected their source of weapons, Haji Subandi, with the defendant, and that's how the deal took place. But it was Mr. Naidu's efforts through all these various countries, and all of these various arms dealers, that led to the contact with Subandi, and in turn, with the undercover business.

He was at the forefront of this, Your Honor. He reported initially back to Santhirajah as well. He would e-mail Santhirajah updates on the status of the arms negotiations. He was the individual who was trying to negotiate a lower price with Haji Subandi for some of these weapons once the contact had been made through Subandi with the undercover agents.

He was not passive in the way that some of the other participants were, you know, go one by one.

For example, Subandi was an arms dealer, but that was his role. He was to supply the arms through the undercover business. He was eventually moved to the side because there was a conflict between some of the other Indonesians and Mr. Subandi.

THE COURT: And Mr. Subandi got a two-level downward adjustment for a minor role, I believe.

MR. WARWICK: That was requested by his counsel and granted by the Court. That's correct.

As far as General Wotulo, his role was to provide the security through the Indonesians waters, and he was to be paid for his contacts in providing that service.

We had Mr. Varatharasa, and he was a Tamil
Tiger. He was a fighter. His role was not to secure
the weapons. His role was to inspect the weapons. He
had a very, very finite role. He was in it because he
was patriotic to that cause. Balraj Naidu was in this
for the money that he stood to make from it.

In our pretrial discussions with Mr.

Varatharasa, he stated clearly that Balraj Naidu was only in this for the money, and that was obviously the incentive, the motivation. Ten percent of these significant arms deals -- the one in question was to be \$900,000 -- would have rendered a commission to Mr.

Naidu of roughly \$90,000. That certainly is a substantial amount.

The other role adjustments in this matter would certainly be appropriate for Mr. Santhirajah if he is ever brought to this court to stand trial on these offenses.

But Mr. Bin Osman, and I'm trying to recall precisely what I said during the sentencing proceedings regarding Mr. Bin Osman, he cooperated more than anybody else who had been previously sentenced at that time, so he was more deeply involved than anyone else who had been previously sentenced as well.

But he was the conduit between Naidu and Santhirajah, and Santhirajah preferred to act through Naidu rather than, I mean though Osman rather than through Mr. Naidu, and there was a shift in the e-mails somewhere around May or June of 2006 which reflected that.

So certainly as far as culpability, Mr. Osman was more culpable than Subandi and Wotulo and Varatharasa. But with regard to being an organizer and putting the buyers in touch with the sellers, that was Mr. Naidu's role, and he certainly organized that and involved people in five different countries.

That's the reason that I think a two-level adjustment upward is appropriate under the facts of the case, as established by the e-mails, established by the testimony.

As I said, all of those weapons lists were forwarded not by Bin Osman, but by Mr. Naidu. I think that's one of the most telling bits of evidence as far as his role in this conspiracy.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Purpura.

MR. PURPURA: Yes, Your Honor.

Can I have the overhead, the Elmo be put on, please?

Judge, did you want to hear from me as to obstruction of justice?

THE COURT: No.

MR. PURPURA: Thank you.

On the role, as I indicated in my sentencing memo, I believe in fact Mr. Naidu is a minor role in this case, and there was nothing in trial which should change that.

If the Court recalls, let's put up, if I can, just the list of players, how the whole thing started out.

Mr. Santhirajah, the gentleman in Australia, he

was organizing arms for LTTE. We will talk about them in a second. His immediate contact was Haniffa Bin Osman. Haniffa Bin Osman coordinates everything, especially in Singapore, and he does not get a role adjustment.

His next contact in Singapore was Eric Pala. It was not Balraj Naidu immediately.

Eric Pala then contacts Balraj Naidu. He contacts Balraj Naidu because he knows Mr. Naidu. He knows Mr. Naidu has done work in other places, such as the Philippines, not with arms; but he has international contacts in the business that he was in.

He knew him because of that, number one. He knew that he was Hindu, number two. He knew that he spoke Tamil and was sympathetic to the Tamil plight, number three. So he contacts Balraj Naidu.

Well, Balraj Naidu, despite the government's early indication that he had contacts and dealt with arms in the past, doesn't know anybody, and that was clear. So what he does, he doesn't have any independent contacts with people. He contacts this person, John Johney. John Johney is the Ph.D. in religious studies apparently who does also international travel and knows people internationally. It was then John Johney.

This is a very loose-knit group of people who are making contacts looking for arms, and very unsophisticated.

Apparently he then contacts someone, who is the Indonesian arms supplier. That was the gentleman who wanted the money up front. That was the \$10,000 we heard about, that 5,000 was given to Mr. Naidu by Mr. Thulasi and 5,000 to Mr. Austen by Mr. Thulasi, and this money was then given to General Tio. Because they are so sophisticated in their arms dealing, and because he is such a good leader in the arms deal, General Tio took the \$10,000, although he wanted \$20,000, and took off, never to be heard from again.

The next attempt to get weapons was again John Johney to Naidu to Mr. Dunno, D U N N O. He was the African native who also lived in Singapore, who Mr. Naidu and John Johney knew at that time. He introduced him to Bin Osman.

They went to a meeting or two meetings at least in Mainland China and in the Philippines, and in both areas apparently they wanted seed money again. Mr. Thulasi was tired of throwing money away, didn't trust what was going on, and nothing happened there. So nothing happened at that point.

The next step was again John Johney, and

everyone -- I mean there's how the chain went, from Thulasi, to Osman, to Pala, Naidu, to John Johney.

John Johney seems to have the most contacts, and John Johney, my recollection is, knew General Wotulo, who knows Haji Subandi, and this is all unbeknownst to Mr. Naidu. Now Mr. Naidu doesn't know what was going on.

Haji Subandi has been dealing in international arms since 2004. He has been dealing with the undercover since 2004, and that was all brought out at the time of the trial. So Subandi is in numerous deals and sophisticated and knows what he is doing with arms.

Haji Subandi has his contact, and his contact is the sting operation person. That's David Austen, which was his undercover name, and it is Damon Ostis, who is the agent.

Now Haji Subandi takes over. From all the e-mails, Haji Subandi is running everything. He's telling Naidu, and he is also telling Mr. Bin Osman that I know what I'm doing here, here's what we need, and here's what's going on.

Haji Subandi is getting his walking orders then from Damon Ostis, David Austen, the undercover at that point. They negotiate the arms deal, and Naidu had nothing to do with it at that point, nothing, nothing.

He was the conduit of the e-mails. Yes, he wanted to stay in. Yes, he was interested in the commission. There was no question about it.

The 10 percent commission is whole cloth. There was never any definition as to what the commission would be. Whether it was 1 percent or 1.5 percent or 2 percent, that was whole cloth, and we know it's whole cloth because Bin Osman eventually completes the deal. That's why it's comedic and it's somewhat laughable.

When Mr. Bin Osman goes to the United States, he goes to Baltimore in July, July 25th of 2006. At that point forward, other than the drive to the airport, because that's what he does, he drives Mr. Bin Osman to the airport, there is no other e-mail contact, and up to that point there have been hundreds of e-mails. We've heard them all, for months, going back and forth, e-mail traffic right and left.

From that point forward, when Subandi, or Bin

Osman goes to the United States, there's no more

contact, none when he returns, not even a peep, except

to the extent that he tells Naidu nothing happened,

the deal is not going forward.

So Naidu is not leading anybody at that point. Subandi is going forward, with or without -- excuse

me. Bin Osman is going forward, with or without Subandi, and he is making the deal happen, because he is now dealing directly with the undercover, Damon Ostis, without Naidu. So he's leading absolutely nothing.

They go on to Guam. They all get arrested.

Osman and Wotulo get arrested in 2006, in September 2006.

Naidu is back in Singapore, thinking the deal is off, and there wasn't one single e-mail presented from July until 2006 involving Mr. Naidu, because there weren't any. His whole thought process was I lost, I don't get my commission, I don't get to help, if I wanted to help, the LTTE people, and I'm out of it, I don't know what's going on.

He doesn't realize what's going on until it appears in the paper the arrest of the people in Guam, and he got arrested himself about three years later.

So really, that's the scenario. That's what came out at trial. Those are the facts.

We heard the testimony of Bin Osman. That's exactly what Bin Osman said. Naidu is out of the deal. When I came back to Singapore, I told Naidu there was no deal, and there was no further contact.

So he is clearly not a leader or organizer at

all. At best, he's a minor role. There's no question that he tried to stay in the deal with the e-mails. He wanted what he thought would be a commission. There's no question about that. But that doesn't make him a leader or an organizer. In fact, it makes him a very minor role.

He is just one of the steps in the chain of events which occurred which leads us to the undercover agent and the deal. That's all he is in this case, period, nothing more, nothing less. No particular expertise, as a matter of fact, a lack of expertise.

If he had international arms dealings, if he had international arms experience like Mr. Subandi, he would have contacted someone, perhaps Damon Ostis.

Maybe he would have contacted Damon Ostis. But he didn't have that, so there is no leadership.

Quite frankly, there is leadership now only because it's a way of suggesting that he went to trial, so we're going to get everything we possibly can get under the Guidelines. You took up our time, and you should be punished.

If you look at it, you look at the facts, he is clearly not a leader. His role is minor, especially, especially, if the Court considers that Haji Subandi, Haji Subandi had his e-mails. He was prolific. He

was the person. He was the glue between Haniffa Bin Osman, between Thulasi.

He was the glue that was pushing this deal and holding on. He was the glue that held David Austen, the undercover arms dealer, in. He was going back and forth. He was negotiating with both sides on a constant basis. If he's a minor role just because he gets cut out at the end, then Naidu certainly is a minor role, because he was clearly cut out.

If the Court recalls, there were e-mails from Haji Subandi at least twice, which I have noted here, where they said Naidu is out, we don't want him in.

So Haji Subandi is taking that type of leadership role, saying Naidu doesn't know what he is doing, he's out of this thing. Those e-mails came prior to the Baltimore trip.

So with Subandi, with his 2004 contacts, dealing in arms all those years, if he gets a minor role, clearly, clearly, clearly, Balraj Naidu, who was candidly inept in what he was doing -- looking for a written contract.

That was his testimony. He was looking for a written contract with Mr. Bin Osman so he could know exactly what his percentage was, and he wanted to present that written contract to a lawyer in Singapore

so he knew exactly what was going on.

His testimony on his direct examination -- the cross-examination lasted maybe 10, 15 minutes. There was probably no need for much more than that. On his direct examination, he admitted every single point.

The only thing, the only reason that he was going to trial, the only thing he contested, and still contests, is that he did not know that in 1997, the United States State Department declared the Tamil Tigers a foreign terrorist organization, because he said that before. He said it in the initial proffer.

He came in and proffered to the government when his case first came in, and he told them exactly what his activities were. He didn't leave anything out. The government had that proffer, and if he had said anything differently, Mr. Warwick would have cross-examined him; but there was no need to, because it was identical.

At that point he said I didn't know it was a foreign terrorist organization. During the trial he got up and said I didn't know it was a foreign terrorist organization, and today he still says I didn't know it was a foreign terrorist organization.

Do you admit you got a sniper rifle? Yes.

Do you admit you got a grenade launcher? Yes.

Did you know that these acts were occurring in Sri Lanka? Yes.

Did you know there was a civil war in Sri Lanka?

Yes, we all knew about it.

Did you know that the Tamils were being discriminated against, that there was a genocide going on for years in Sri Lanka? Yes.

The whole issues was the United States in 1997 took a side, and the side they took was the Sri Lankan government's side. At that point, they were designated a foreign terrorist organization, and his knowledge was, and he continuously denies, that he didn't know it was a foreign terrorist organization, and that's why we are here. I will respond to that in probably shorter detail in another moment, but clearly, he did not.

To even suggest that there is an upward adjustment for his testifying is ridiculous. He was honest and candid to a fault, to a fault. I have never seen it before, the way he honestly said what he did, and the same thing with his wife. So there was no perjured testimony.

As unfortunate this whole thing is, he is not a leader, organizer. As unfortunate this is, he is a person with a role that should be a minor role.

Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Any other guideline-related issues that we have not talked about?

MR. PURPURA: None by defense, Your Honor.

MR. WARWICK: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

Well, regarding the two disputed issues, first of all, on the suggested obstruction, I think that is clearly non-applicable here.

Mr. Naidu testified. Even assuming that Mr. Warwick is correct, and that in some instances he minimized his involvement, overall, clearly he admitted a great deal of the conduct that the government then appropriately relied on to argue to the jury that he should be convicted.

The one point that has been focused on about whether he knew that the LTTE had been designated as a foreign terrorist organization as opposed to knowing about acts of terrorism and so forth is the one point on which the jury did not find against Mr. Naidu.

I certainly don't see a basis to find that he willfully testified falsely as to some material matter when I consider his overall testimony as a whole. So I am not going to apply the two-level upward

adjustment under 3C1.1.

Nor am I going to apply the two-level upward adjustment for being an organizer or a leader. I think that it is important in cases such as this, conspiracy, and the number of people involved, to look at that role adjustment in light of everyone else's involvement and everyone else's treatment under the Guidelines as well. It's clearly a relative culpability adjustment.

I don't think that in terms of this conspiracy, and certainly what was ultimately accomplished, that Mr. Naidu should be described as a leader or organizer, particularly in comparison to others involved, including Mr. Bin Osman or even Mr. Wotulo, whose sentencing I believe it was that Mr. Warwick pointed out Mr. Wotulo bringing Mr. Subandi into the picture and described Mr. Wotulo as active.

It seems to me that Mr. Naidu certainly was a negotiator. He was a broker. He was trying to put a dealer together with a buyer. He was not particularly successful. He was excluded from the final deal.

I don't see that there is an upward level adjustment warranted; but I also cannot say, having heard the entire trial evidence, that a minor role adjustment is warranted.

1 He was quite active, particularly in the 2 beginning part of the conspiracy. He did stay in communication through e-mails. He clearly hoped to 3 get a commission. 4 While he was cut out to some extent after the 5 6 July events, he had I think played a very active role 7 up until, as I say, up until that point, and his 8 relative culpability should not be described as a 9 minor. 10 Mr. Subandi, by comparison, came into this 11 later, was also cut out at the end. I think Mr. Naidu 12 had more substantial, although unsuccessful, efforts involved in this conspiracy than Mr. Subandi. I don't 13 14 see that a minor role adjustment is warranted. 15 So my conclusion in terms of the Advisory 16 Guideline range is that --17 MR. PURPURA: Judge, I'm sorry. I apologize. 18 THE COURT: I'm sorry? 19 MR. PURPURA: There was one more Guideline 20 issue. 21 THE COURT: Oh, okay. 22 MR. PURPURA: It was acceptance of 23 responsibility. I believe that he --24 THE COURT: You did put that in your memorandum. 25 MR. PURPURA: -- is entitled to acceptance of

responsibility. The only issue which was contested by Mr. Naidu has always been, in essence a legal issue, whether he had knowledge that the LTTE, the Tamil Tigers were designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

As the Court did indicate, the jury could not decide that. It was broken down into three sections for the jury to decide. They could not decide that particular issue. He admitted every other factor.

He has constantly admitted every other factor.

At the initial proffer he admitted every factor,

except that factor. The only reason he went to trial,

the only reason he testified was on the particular

issue that he did not know that LTTE was a designated

terrorist organization. So he has always accepted his

responsibility.

THE COURT: But there are two other prongs of knowledge on which he could have accepted responsibility and did not. There were three ways in which knowledge could have been approved. Even assuming that he was not willing to agree he did not know about the designation, there were two other prongs of knowledge that he could have admitted. He could have accepted responsibility, and he did not.

MR. PURPURA: Okay.

THE COURT: I understand your argument, but I don't think I can gave a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility.

So that's going to be an offense level of 28.

His Criminal History Category is I. The Advisory

Guideline range, which, of course, is just one of the factors I have to consider, would therefore be from 78 to 97 months.

I will be happy to listen to 3553(a) arguments.

Mr. Warwick.

MR. WARWICK: Your Honor, as cases like this get flushed out, they become more chilling.

Mr. Purpura has consistently made light of the fact that this was just the U.S. government's choice to side with the Sri Lankan government rather than the LTTE, that this was a civil war that we had no interest in.

As Colonel Girven explained and testified in detail, the LTTE was a ruthless, ruthless organization. They were involved in several other hundred suicide bombings.

They set the standard for new waves of terrorism which are seen in other places throughout the world, whether it's the use of smaller craft to attack larger vessels, which is what they did with the Sri Lankan

Navy, and it was copied by the Yemeni terrorists, a branch of Al-Qaeda, against the U.S.S. Cole.

The improvised explosive devices that were used, and also the suicide vests that were used in many parts of the world, including Afghanistan and Iraq, were devised, tested extensively and, I hate to use the word, but improved in their efficiency, the detonating efficiency by the LTTE.

They engaged in political assassinations. They extorted money within the country and outside the country to support their activities. This was notorious throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia. It was notorious with the Tamil population in Singapore.

Balraj Naidu, not out of sympathy and a patriot, or as a member of the LTTE, but as a merchant, as a broker, opted to take advantage of an opportunity that was presented to him, and conspired to acquire deadly weapons, grenade launchers, grenades, sniper rifles.

Sniper rifles are used for assassinations. Whether it's a political figure or someone else that had an interest contrary to the LTTE.

As I argued to the jury, Mr. Naidu is nothing more than a merchant of death. He cared less what those weapons would ultimately be used for, but he

knew that they would be used to kill people.

Mr. Varatharasa was adamant in what is also reflected is many of the e-mails, that Balraj Naidu was in it for the money.

One of the most telling statements that he made in an e-mail was to one of the potential arms suppliers, urging that supplier to work harder. We must, we must, we must get this done. There is money to be made here. If this succeeds, we will have enough money to eat for a lifetime.

That type of mercenary attitude is what fuels the illegal arms business. Personal greed drove Balraj Naidu to engage in this activity. He needs to be punished. There needs to be a detriment, the detrimental effect so that other people do not engage in this type of activity.

His callous disregard, Your Honor, for what would be the results of his arms dealing is just chilling. There is no useful, lawful, humanitarian purpose for the weapons that we saw displayed in court. He was in it for the money. He deserves no leniency from this Court, and I would ask this Court to consider a sentence at the upper end of the Guideline range because it is deserving.

Colonel Girven outlined for us many of the

activities of the LTTE. He was a witness to some. He was a witness to the aftermath of much of those activities.

The fact that the civil war is over at this point was not due to the fact that Balraj Naidu did anything to conclude that strife, that fighting. He only desired to encourage it.

During a time frame in 2006, Santhirajah passed the information to Naidu and also on occasion to Bin Osman of the urgency for the need of these weapons because the LTTE was planning an offensive, which was to take place in the September, October time frame of 2006, and that was one of reasons that Balraj Naidu pressed those potential suppliers to deliver the weapons as soon as possible.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Warwick.

Mr. Purpura.

MR. PURPURA: Thank you.

No one, particularly me, makes light of war.

This was, this was war. It was a civil war. There's no question about it. The Court has the sentencing memorandum which was filed in the Eastern District before Judge Dearie. It sets out the very tortious history of both sides in this war. It was a war.

Yes, sniper rifles are used to kill people, like all weapons in war. It is not used to assassinate people. It is used by our forces to kill people, because that is what war is about.

This is a war. This is a civil war. It wasn't a revolution to overthrow the government of Sri Lanka. It was a civil war with marked boundaries which were set centuries before, starting in the 14th Century, the northern and eastern area of Sri Lanka.

As the Court recalls, the Sinhalese came down from Northern India sometime in B.C. and the Tamils came down from the southern area of India sometime in the 14th Century and set the dynasty.

So we have marked areas in a very small country and we had two very, very different types of people, the Sinhalese being Buddhist, and the Tamils being Hindu.

As a result of that, there was a persecution. It was a persecution in the '60s and '70s, I'm sorry, the '40s, '50s, '60s, with the independence of Sri Lanka from England, and it was against the Tamil population. I believe that's all in the sentencing memorandum as well.

It was a war. War is bad. I mean obviously I argued that. You heard me say that. The Court knows

that. On both sides there are no heros. Nothing new is invented in this particular war. Attacks of small ships against larger ships is nothing new.

We had Japanese fighter pilots committing suicide raids in War World II. Going back to the Civil War, we had smaller vessels attacking larger vessels, trying to set them on fire.

There is nothing new, unfortunately, about war.

It becomes better developed as time goes on, but there is nothing particularly new.

There were atrocities on both sides, and it's all wrong. There's no question it's all wrong, the war itself.

But the people, the government of Sri Lanka is not with clean hands in this particular case, and they are still not with clean hands. The government's witness, Colonel Girven, admitted that, and testified to that. He acknowledged that the United States State Department had listed the government of Sri Lanka in their yearly report in 2008 and 2009 as a human rights violator, and a country which is not negotiating or letting us and the United Nations take a look at them. He acknowledged that.

It's not only the United States State

Department. It's the Human Rights Watch. It's the

UK, United Kingdom Department of Internal Development.

It's the House of Commons Report in Britain. It's the

European Commission in 2008 and 2009 report. It's the

United Nations Report on Human Rights Violations.

Each one of those reports consistently now are claiming -- the war was over in 2009. It was a war. It was a war.

In 2009, they surrendered, but the atrocities are continuing. The United States acknowledges that. Colonel Girven acknowledges that. The European Union acknowledges that.

The only people that have not acknowledged that, and it is still today as we sit here in 2010, is the government of Sri Lanka, because they refuse to allow the United Nations in. They refuse to allow any outside intervention because they believe that that again will stoke the fire, as they say, of discontent in their country.

So everyone, every outside nation that takes a look at this continues to suggest that the atrocities against the Sri Lankan government continues against the people of Tamil.

So it was a war, and yes, wars are ugly. It was ugly in World War II. It was ugly when you dropped an atomic bond and civilians were obliterated and

generations were affected after that. War is ugly, yes. That really is not the issue here. If you are going to punish someone for war, you've got a lot of people you can punish for war.

Mr. Naidu, his activities, he has been arrested. He has been arrested in his home country, in Singapore. He was detained in Singapore. When he was arrested, it hit the national newspaper in Singapore, which is the one national newspaper they have.

He has been brought here to the United States.

He has now been in custody in the United States, half

of a world away from his family, from his culture,

from everything he holds dear for one year. I believe

December 18th was his arrival in this country. So he

has been here for a period of time.

THE COURT: Would September 23, 2009 then be in fact the appropriate date?

MR. PURPURA: It is. I was wrong. It is the absolute appropriate date. So he has been in custody.

You received the letters from his wife. You heard her testify. You know what has happened. He wasn't living the life of an arms dealer, despite his actions in this particular case.

I believe truly he felt this was an international deal he was getting involved in for

arms, and it was a legitimate deal. He was going to seek the help of a lawyer for the contract to set up the commission. There's no question.

We have arms dealers in the United States. We supply arms to tons of countries, and arms are used to kill people. Again, that's not the issue.

The business that his wife and he had has been lost. His wife is now going into bankruptcy. There was a large loan taken out just before he was arrested. I think it was close to a million dollar loan, and that has defaulted.

As a result of that, all their property,
literally everything in their little flat they had,
including their flat, has now been bankrupt and is
being sold. I spoke with the wife, and the bankruptcy
proceedings ares going through on that as well.

His youngest son, who is mandatory military age, was in the military, he is out of the military now pending leave because of depression as a result of literally coming here and sitting in the trial, seeing what happened to his father in this case.

The two daughters, the twin daughters are 20 years old. They were in the university. They have come out of the university to help maintain and help their mother.

The mother has indicated, and his wife has indicated that she has taken a local job washing dishes now. She wears rubber gloves and she has an infection on her hands from wearing the rubber gloves.

So there has been a huge impact. Not only has it been a huge impact on Naidu, all this has been disseminated in a very small political community, in which Mr. Naidu is very political, and that has destroyed himself, ostracized him and his family. So there is a huge punishment there as well.

So the word has gotten out. The word has clearly gotten out in Singapore. He clearly has been punished.

This war, and it was a civil war, not a revolution to overthrow a government, was over in 2009. The results are still not good. What's going on by far is not good, but it's over, at least as far as the United States is concerned at this point, not for the people of Sri Lanka, and especially not for the Tamils, be it Muslim and/or Hindu. So that's over.

What I am asking the Court is we can end this too. There is so much here based on the 3553(a) factors, based on the type of war that was going on, based on Mr. Naidu's background. He is 47, 48 years

old, no criminal history whatsoever. Enough is enough, and you can send him home.

You can find time served, literally 18 months, time served. He has been here a year. He has another month of incarceration. It's a substantial sentence, a substantial punishment. He has been punished. The word has gone out. It has gone out internationally.

You have a representative from the Singapore

Embassy here. It has gone back to Singapore. They

know what happens in these cases. People's eyes have

been opened up. There is no need, and nothing else is

accomplished by giving a longer period of time of

incarceration.

Mr. Bin Osman and everybody else who we have put up there on that screen, whatever period of time, and really, they have not been lengthy periods of time, have been released, have been back in their country, and they are now free. There is no reason, there is no good reason to further detain Mr. Naidu.

I ask the Court to consider a very short period of time, 18 months, and/or time served, and send him home.

He is still not released when he goes home. Who knows what kind of charges may still be pending in Singapore? I don't know, and I don't think the

1 government can tell us for sure what will happen when and if he is released back to Singapore, where he must 2 3 go. I have nothing further, Judge, unless the Court 4 5 has any questions. I have talked to Mr. Naidu numerous times, and I 6 7 don't believe he has anything further to say. 8 Is there anything you wish to say? 9 Did you hear him? 10 THE COURT: I'm afraid I couldn't hear you, Mr. 11 Naidu. You don't have to speak, but you have the 12 right to speak if there is anything you would like to 13 say. 14 THE DEFENDANT: I just would like to be with my 15 family, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: All right. Anything else that 17 anybody needs to say at this point? 18 MR. PURPURA: The other point, I'm sorry, just 19 about war in general. 20 War crimes occur, and war crimes are punished in 21 criminal courts, war courts that have been designated. 22 We had that in Vietnam. We had that in World War II. 23 We had that in post World War II. 24 Atrocities are not being prosecuted in Sri

Lanka, and people are not being brought to justice.

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1 People being brought to justice are the Tamils over here for their participation. 2 3 MR. WARWICK: Judge, I just need to make one point, and that is simply this: 4 5 The atrocities in Sri Lanka, the end of the war, 6 whether or not the Sri Lankan government is 7 cooperating with the UN and other agencies is 8 irrelevant. That man over there only wanted to make money by 10 selling guns that were going to be used to kill 11 people. That was his only interest. He wasn't 12 interested in whether the Tamils were getting justice. 13 He was interested in how much money he could make, and 14 all he cared about was that money. He didn't care who 15 would get killed, who would suffer, and that's the 16 most egregious part of this entire case. 17 THE COURT: Okay. 18 MR. PURPURA: My silence is not agreement with 19 that. The Court has heard his background, and why 20 they sought him out was because he was a Tamil who 21 could speak Hindu. 22 THE COURT: Thank you. I am going to take a 23 short recess until about 12 o'clock, and I'll be back. 24 (A recess was taken.)

THE COURT: Thank you all for your

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presentations. I do now have to consider, in addition to the Advisory Guideline range, the factors under 3553(a). It presents a number of very difficult issues.

First of all, the nature and circumstances of the offense, obviously this is a serious crime. Mr. Naidu, along with co-defendants, was involved in providing weapons, or attempting to, to a terrorist organization.

I don't think that this is really a matter of the relative culpability between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government, or the wisdom of the State

Department designation. Based on what I heard at trial, there is really very little dispute that the Tamil Tigers are, or were engaged in numerous acts of violence that could be described as terrorism, including against at least civilian facilities, such as the commercial airlines that were mentioned, and I don't think there is any dispute that Mr. Naidu knew that's where the weapons were going, and that he was willing to do that for money.

I think on the other hand we have to be careful and not to react simply because of the weapons that were involved or what we saw displayed in the courtroom.

It is an unfortunate fact that arms dealing is frequently a legitimate business and arms are sold frequently for the purpose of being involved in war, and war is recognized and authorized in many circles.

Sometimes it can be difficult, and it is really a political question, but not for me, between what you described as war and what you described as terrorism.

We might like to see all that stopped, but it has not been, and is not likely to be in the immediate future.

Mr. Naidu's history and characteristics, he has no criminal record. As I recall, he was a government employee for much of his life, and then has tried to make money in a variety of ways to support his family.

He is a foreigner, if you will. He is not a citizen of this country. He has been in custody. He didn't come here voluntarily, and he has been in custody in a foreign country, which I think there is an additional degree of punishment to that, to being in custody in a land where you are alone, and not a citizen.

In terms of deterrence, I think it is clear that Mr. Naidu has suffered a sufficient impact to deter himself personally, the loss of his business and his home, the impact on his family. I don't think there is a great deal of need to protect the public from Mr.

Naidu personally.

However, I understand that deterrence generally also has to be considered at stopping the illegal arms trade, and this was. The illegal arms trade is important, and it is a serious matter that requires a just punishment.

Another extremely important factor for me, however, in this sentencing, as in any sentencing, is the relative culpability of the persons that are involved and that have come before me for sentencing.

I will be corrected if I am wrong, but I believe the longest sentence that has been imposed is on Mr. Varatharasa of 57 months. Now he did plead guilty and accept responsibility.

On the other hand, Mr. Varatharasa, of course, is the actual member of the Tamil Tigers, and under the theory of this case, is a terrorist himself, and certainly was involved in what those weapons were going to be used for. So I need to take that into account as well.

Considering all these things and the seriousness of the offense, and also the effect of this prosecution on Mr. Naidu, and the sentence given to Mr. Varatharasa, I believe that I cannot give more than that to Mr. Naidu. I do think that a sentence of

the same amount, however, is appropriate.

The sentence is going to be 57 months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. That is going to be followed by a period of two years of supervised release, in which obviously the major condition is that Mr. Naidu will cooperate with the removal proceedings and not return to this country, unless authorized to do so.

I am going to suspend drug treatment. That doesn't appear to be an issue.

I am required to impose a \$100 special assessment. His financial circumstances don't permit imposition of a fine.

For all the reasons I have just explained, I think that is an appropriate, sufficient, without being greater than necessary, sentence in this case.

Have I left anything out, anything that has not been addressed, anything either side thinks that I have missed?

MR. WARWICK: Nothing by the government.

MR. PURPURA: Nothing by the defense. Thank you, Your Honor.

Unrelated to this, when the Court finishes, can we approach the bench unrelated?

THE COURT: Yes.

Just to finish this, Mr. Naidu, of course, you are entitled to appeal both the judgment, the conviction, and the sentence in this case. You can consult with Mr. Purpura about that. Any appeal needs to be noted within 14 days. Again, I am sure counsel will explain that to you. Okay. Yes. I will be happy to see counsel on an unrelated matter at the bench. (The proceedings concluded.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript in the matter of United States of America vs. Balraj
Naidu, Defendant, Criminal Action No. CCB-08-0091,
before the Honorable Catherine C. Blake, United States
District Judge, on December 16, 2010 is true and
accurate.

Gail A. Simpkins

Official Court Reporter

\$	3553(a [2] - 23:9,	17:14, 24:11, 26:1,	39:1, 39:15	В
Ψ	32:23	26:3, 30:5	appropriately [1] -	
	3553(a) [1] - 36:3	activity [3] - 5:24,	19:15	
\$10,000 [2] - 11:6,	3C1.1 [1] - 20:1	25:13, 25:16	approved [1] - 22:20	B.C [1] - 27:11
11:12		acts [3] - 18:1, 19:20,	area [2] - 27:9, 27:12	background [2] -
\$100 [1] - 39:11	4	36:15	areas [2] - 11:21,	32:25, 35:19
\$20,000 [1] - 11:13		actual [1] - 38:16	27:14	bad [1] - 27:24
\$90,000 [1] - 8:1	4 0.05	adamant [1] - 25:2	ares [1] - 31:16	BALRAJ [1] - 1:6
\$900,000 [1] - 7:25	4 [1] - 2:25	addition [1] - 36:1	argue [1] - 19:15	Balraj [18] - 2:5, 2:12,
	47 [1] - 32:25	additional [1] - 37:18	argued [2] - 24:23,	5:9, 5:11, 7:18, 7:21,
•	48 [1] - 32:25	addressed [1] - 39:18	27:25	10:7, 10:8, 10:9,
		adds [1] - 3:23	argument [2] - 4:6,	10:16, 10:17, 16:19,
'40s [1] - 27:20	5	adjustment [16] -	23:1	24:15, 25:3, 25:13,
'50s [1] - 27:20		3:24, 3:25, 4:23, 7:7,	arguments [1] - 23:9	26:5, 26:13, 41:3
'60s [2] - 27:19, 27:20	5 [1] - 2:25	9:1, 10:5, 18:18,	arms [33] - 5:15, 5:21,	Baltimore [3] - 1:8,
'70s [1] - 27:19	5,000 [2] - 11:7, 11:8	20:1, 20:3, 20:6,	6:14, 6:20, 7:1, 7:2,	13:12, 16:16
100[i] 21.10	5.3 [1] - 3:19	20:9, 20:23, 20:25,	7:24, 10:1, 10:11,	Bambang [4] - 6:5,
1	57 [2] - 38:13, 39:2	21:14, 23:2	10:19, 11:2, 11:5,	6:9, 6:10
		adjustments [1] - 8:3	11:10, 11:11, 12:8,	bankrupt [1] - 31:14
	6	admit [3] - 4:8, 17:24,	12:12, 12:24, 15:12,	bankruptcy [2] - 31:8,
1 [3] - 2:25, 3:5, 13:6		17:25	15:13, 16:5, 16:18,	31:15
1.5 [1] - 13:6		admitted [7] - 17:5,	25:6, 25:12, 25:18,	base [1] - 3:18
10 [2] - 13:4, 17:3	6 [2] - 2:24, 3:2	19:14, 22:9, 22:10,	30:22, 31:1, 31:4,	based [4] - 32:23,
12 [1] - 35:23	_	22:11, 22:23, 28:17	31:5, 37:1, 37:2,	32:24, 32:25, 36:13
14 [1] - 40:5	7	advantage [1] - 24:17	38:3, 38:4	basis [2] - 16:7, 19:22
14th [2] - 27:8, 27:13		Advisory [4] - 3:12,	arrest [1] - 14:17	become [1] - 23:12
15 [1] - 17:3	78 [1] - 23:7	21:15, 23:5, 36:2	arrested [7] - 14:6,	becomes [1] - 28:9
16 [2] - 1:9, 41:6	10[1] 20.1	affected [1] - 30:1	14:7, 14:18, 30:5,	beginning [1] - 21:2
18 [2] - 33:3, 33:21	9	Afghanistan [1] - 24:5	30:6, 30:8, 31:10	behalf [1] - 2:11
18th [1] - 30:14		afraid [1] - 34:10	arrival [1] - 30:14	bench [2] - 39:24,
1997 [2] - 17:8, 18:8		African [1] - 11:16	Asia [2] - 24:12	40:8
	97 [1] - 23:8	aftermath [1] - 26:2	assassinate [1] - 27:2	best [1] - 15:1 better [1] - 28:9
2		age [1] - 31:17	assassinations [2] -	
	Α	agencies [1] - 35:7	24:9, 24:20	between [7] - 6:2, 7:4, 8:14, 16:1, 16:2,
2 [5] - 2:24, 3:4, 3:8,		agent [2] - 12:16, 15:9	assessment [1] - 39:12	36:11, 37:6
3:9, 13:7	above-entitled [1] -	agents [1] - 6:23	assuming [2] - 19:11,	bin [2] - 12:19, 33:14
20 [1] - 31:22	1:11	agree [1] - 22:21	22:21	Bin [18] - 5:3, 8:7, 8:9,
2004 [3] - 12:8, 12:9,	absolute [1] - 30:19	agreement [1] - 35:18	atomic [1] - 29:25	9:6, 10:2, 10:3,
16:17	absolutely [1] - 14:4	agreements [1] - 3:14	atrocities [5] - 28:11,	11:18, 13:8, 13:11,
2006 [8] - 5:10, 8:18,	accept [1] - 38:14	airlines [1] - 36:18	29:8, 29:20, 34:24,	13:14, 13:19, 14:1,
13:12, 14:7, 14:8,	acceptance [3] -	airport [2] - 13:13,	35:5	14:21, 14:22, 16:1,
14:11, 26:8, 26:13	21:22, 21:25, 23:3	13:15	attack [1] - 23:24	16:23, 20:14, 26:9
2008 [2] - 28:20, 29:3	accepted [3] - 22:15,	Al Coode ::: 24:2	attacking [1] - 28:6	bits [1] - 9:7
2009 [6] - 28:20, 29:3,	22:18, 22:24	Al-Qaeda [1] - 24:2	attacks [1] - 28:2	Blake [3] - 1:12, 2:9,
29:6, 29:8, 30:16,	accomplished [2] -	allegedly [1] - 4:1	attempt [1] - 11:14	41:5
32:16	20:11, 33:12	allow [2] - 29:14,	attempting [1] - 36:8	bombings [1] - 23:21
2010 [3] - 1:9, 29:13,	account [1] - 38:20	29:15	attend [1] - 2:19	bond [1] - 29:25
41:6	accurate [1] - 41:7	alone [1] - 37:19	attitude [1] - 25:11	boundaries [1] - 27:7
23 [1] - 30:16	acknowledged [3] -	AMERICA [1] - 1:4	Austen [4] - 11:8,	branch [1] - 24:2
25th [1] - 13:12	28:18, 28:23, 29:12	America [2] - 2:5, 41:3	12:14, 12:23, 16:4	bringing [1] - 20:16
26 [1] - 3:19	acknowledges [3] -	amount [2] - 8:2, 39:1	Australia [2] - 5:3,	Britain [1] - 29:2
28 [1] - 23:4	29:9, 29:10, 29:11	apologize [1] - 21:17	9:25	broken [1] - 22:7
29 [1] - 3:3	acquire [1] - 24:18	appeal [2] - 40:2, 40:4	authorities [1] - 6:7	broker [2] - 20:19,
2M [1] - 3:18	act [1] - 8:15	appear [1] - 39:10	authorized [2] - 37:4,	24:17
1:1 +::-#	Action [1] - 41:4	applicable [1] - 19:10	39:8	brought [7] - 5:11,
3	actions [1] - 30:23	apply [2] - 19:25, 20:2	55.5	6:3, 8:5, 12:9, 30:10,
	active [3] - 20:17,	approach [1] - 39:24		34:25, 35:1
	21:1, 21:6	appropriate [6] - 8:4,		Buddhist [1] - 27:16
	Z I. I. Z I.O	0.0 00.47 00.40		
3 [1] - 2:25	activities [6] - 5:8,	9:2, 30:17, 30:19,		Bureau [1] - 39:3

business [8] - 5:4, 6:16, 7:3, 10:12, 25:12, 31:7, 37:2, 37:23 buyer [1] - 20:20 buyers [1] - 8:23

C

calculate [1] - 3:12 callous [1] - 25:17 candid [1] - 18:19 candidly [1] - 16:20 candor [1] - 4:14 cannot [2] - 20:23, 38:24 care [1] - 35:14 cared [2] - 24:24, 35:14 careful [1] - 36:22 case [13] - 1:11, 2:2, 9:2, 9:20, 15:9, 17:13, 28:15, 30:23, 31:21, 35:16, 38:17, 39:16, 40:3 cases [3] - 20:4, 23:11, 33:10 Category [1] - 23:5 Catherine [2] - 1:12, 41:5 CCB-08-0091 [3] - 1:5, 2:6, 41:4 centuries [1] - 27:8 Century [2] - 27:8, 27:13 certainly [13] - 2:21, 4:8, 4:13, 4:15, 8:1, 8:4, 8:20, 8:24, 16:8, 19:22, 20:11, 20:18, 38:18 CERTIFICATE [1] -41:1 certify [1] - 41:2 chain [2] - 12:1, 15:7 change [1] - 9:21 characteristics [1] -37:10 charges [1] - 33:24 chilling [2] - 23:12, 25:19 China [3] - 5:17, 5:19, 11:20 choice [1] - 23:14 circles [1] - 37:4 circumstances [2] -36:5, 39:12 citizen [2] - 37:15, 37:20

civil [7] - 18:3, 23:16,

26:4, 26:21, 27:5, 27:7, 32:14 Civil [1] - 28:6 civilian [1] - 36:17 civilians [1] - 29:25 claiming [1] - 29:6 **clarify** [1] - 3:4 clean [2] - 28:15, 28:16 clear [2] - 10:20, 37:21 clearly [14] - 7:21, 14:25, 15:23, 16:9, 16:19, 18:16, 19:10, 19:13, 20:8, 21:3, 32:12 close [1] - 31:10 cloth [3] - 13:4, 13:7, 13:8 **co** [1] - 36:7 co-defendants [1] -36:7 Cole [1] - 24:2 colonel [2] - 25:25, 29:10 Colonel [2] - 23:18, 28:17 colorable [2] - 4:6 comedic [1] - 13:9 coming [1] - 31:20 commercial [1] -36:18 Commission [1] -29:3 commission [8] -7:25, 13:3, 13:4, 13:5, 14:13, 15:3, 21:4, 31:3 committing [1] - 28:4 Commons [1] - 29:2 communication [1] -21:3 community [1] - 32:7 compared [1] - 4:21 comparison [2] -20:13, 21:10 completes [1] - 13:8 concerned [1] - 32:18 conclude [1] - 26:6 concluded [1] - 40:9 conclusion [1] - 21:15 condition [1] - 39:5 conduct [1] - 19:14 conduit [2] - 8:14, 13:1 conflict [1] - 7:4 connected [1] - 6:10 39:7 consider [5] - 19:24,

23:7, 25:23, 33:20,

considered [1] - 38:3

36.1

considering [1] -38:21 considers [1] - 15:24 consistently [2] -23:13, 29:5 conspiracy [8] - 3:16, 3:20, 4:22, 9:8, 20:5, 20:10, 21:2, 21:13 conspired [1] - 24:18 constant [1] - 16:7 constantly [1] - 22:10 construe [1] - 4:15 construed [1] - 4:9 consult [1] - 40:4 contact [10] - 6:3, 6:15, 6:22, 10:2, 10:6, 12:13, 13:15, 13:21, 14:24 contacted [2] - 15:14, 15:15 contacts [15] - 5:7, 5:18, 6:2, 7:12, 10:8, 10:9, 10:12, 10:16, 10:18, 10:21, 11:2, 11:4, 12:3, 16:17 contested [2] - 17:7, contests [1] - 17:8 continues [2] - 29:20, 29.21 continuing [1] - 29:9 continuously [1] -18:12 contract [4] - 16:21, 16:23, 16:25, 31:2 contrary [1] - 24:22 convicted [2] - 3:15, 19:16 **conviction** [1] - 40:3 cooperate [1] - 39:6 cooperated [1] - 8:9 cooperating [1] - 35:7 coordinates [1] - 10:3 copied [1] - 24:1 correct [2] - 7:9, 19:12 corrected [1] - 38:11 counsel [3] - 7:8, 40:5, 40:7 Count [5] - 3:2, 3:4, 3:5, 3:8, 3:9 countries [3] - 6:13, 8:25, 31:5 country [11] - 24:10, 24:11, 27:14, 28:21, 29:18, 30:6, 30:14, 33:17, 37:15, 37:17,

Counts [2] - 2:24

course [5] - 3:15, 4:2,

23:6, 38:15, 40:1

court [2] - 8:5, 25:21 COURT [28] - 1:1, 2:2, 2:8, 2:10, 2:15, 2:21, 3:1, 3:7, 3:10, 4:20, 7:6, 9:9, 9:16, 19:2, 19:7, 21:18, 21:21, 21:24, 22:17, 23:1, 26:17, 30:16, 34:10, 34:16, 35:17, 35:22, 35:25, 39:25 Court [23] - 1:25, 2:7, 2:19, 2:22, 3:2, 4:15, 4:25, 7:9, 9:22, 15:24, 16:10, 22:6, 25:22, 26:22, 27:10, 27:25, 32:22, 33:20, 34:4, 35:19, 39:23, 41:11 courtroom [1] - 36:25 courts [2] - 34:21 craft [1] - 23:24 crime [2] - 4:10, 36:6 crimes [2] - 34:20 criminal [3] - 33:1, 34:21, 37:11 **CRIMINAL** [1] - 1:5 Criminal [3] - 2:6, 23:5, 41:4 cross [3] - 4:9, 17:3, 17:17 cross-examination [2] - 4:9, 17:3 cross-examined [1] -17:17 culpability [5] - 8:20, 20:9, 21:8, 36:11, 38:9 **culpable** [1] - 8:21 **culture** [1] - 30:12 custody [6] - 30:11, 30:19, 37:15, 37:17, 37:19, 39:3 cut [4] - 16:8, 16:9, 21:5, 21:11 D

Damon [5] - 12:15, 12:23, 14:3, 15:14, 15:15 dangerous [1] - 3:21 date [2] - 30:17, 30:19 daughters [2] - 31:22 David [3] - 12:14, 12:23, 16:4 days [1] - 40:5 deadly [1] - 24:18 deal [17] - 6:12, 11:11, 12:24, 13:9, 13:23,

14:2, 14:9, 14:23, 14:24, 15:2, 15:9, 16:3, 19:14, 20:21, 30:25, 31:1, 37:25 dealer [4] - 7:1, 16:5, 20:20. 30:22 dealers [2] - 6:14, 31:4 dealing [7] - 11:10, 12:7, 12:8, 14:3, 16:17, 25:18, 37:1 dealings [1] - 15:12 deals [2] - 7:24, 12:11 dealt [1] - 10:18 dear [1] - 30:13 Dearie [1] - 26:24 death [1] - 24:24 **December** [3] - 1:9, 30:14, 41:6 decide [3] - 22:7, 22:8 declared [1] - 17:9 deeply [1] - 8:11 defaulted [1] - 31:11 **DEFENDANT** [2] - 1:7, 34:14 defendant [4] - 2:23, 4:8, 6:3, 6:11 Defendant [2] - 1:21, 41:4 defendant's [1] - 4:7 defendants [1] - 36:7 defense [2] - 19:5, 39:21 **definition** [1] - 13:5 degree [1] - 37:18 deliver [1] - 26:14 denies [1] - 18:12 **Department** [5] - 17:9, 28:19, 28:25, 29:1, 36:13 depression [1] - 31:19 described [6] - 20:12, 20:17, 21:8, 36:16, 37:7 deserves [1] - 25:21 deserving [1] - 25:24 designated [5] -18:11, 19:18, 22:4, 22:14, 34:21 designation [2] -22:22, 36:13 desired [1] - 26:7 despite [2] - 10:17, 30:22 destroyed [1] - 32:9 detail [4] - 2:14, 4:13, 18:15, 23:19 detain [1] - 33:19 detained [1] - 30:7

deter[1] - 37:22

deterrence [2] - 37:21,	13:15, 13:18, 14:10,	experience [1] - 15:13
38:2	25:6	experience [1] - 15.15
detonating [1] - 24:8	e-mails [12] - 5:13,	explain [1] - 40:6
detriment [1] - 25:14	8:18, 9:3, 12:18,	explained [2] - 23:18,
detrimental [1] - 25:15	13:1, 13:16, 15:2,	39:14
developed [1] - 28:9	15:25, 16:10, 16:15,	explosive [1] - 24:3
Development [1] -	21:3, 25:3	extensively [2] - 5:12,
29:1	early [1] - 10:18	24:6
devices [1] - 24:3	Eastern [1] - 26:23	extent [2] - 13:22,
devised [1] - 24:6	eastern [1] - 27:9	21:5
different [2] - 8:25,	eat [1] - 25:10	extorted [1] - 24:10
27:15	effect [2] - 25:15,	extradited [1] - 2:23
differently [1] - 17:16	38:22	extradition [1] - 5:2
difficult [2] - 36:3,	efficiency [2] - 24:7,	extremely [1] - 38:7
37:5	24:8	eyes [1] - 33:10
direct [2] - 17:2, 17:5	efforts [2] - 6:13,	3,001,1
directly [1] - 14:3	21:12	F
disagreements [1] -	egregious [1] - 35:16	•
3:14	either [2] - 4:3, 39:18	
discontent [1] - 29:17	elements [1] - 4:10	facilities [1] - 36:17
discriminated [1] -	Elmo [1] - 9:12	fact [8] - 9:19, 15:5,
18:6	Embassy [1] - 33:9	15:11, 23:14, 26:4,
discussions [1] - 7:20	employee [1] - 37:12	26:5, 30:17, 37:1
dishes [1] - 32:3	encourage [1] - 26:7	factor [5] - 22:9,
dismissed [2] - 2:25,	end [5] - 16:8, 21:11,	22:10, 22:11, 22:12,
3:2	25:23, 32:22, 35:5	38:7
displayed [2] - 25:20,	engage [2] - 25:13,	factors [3] - 23:7,
36:24	25:15	32:24, 36:2
dispute [2] - 36:14,	engaged [2] - 24:9,	facts [3] - 9:2, 14:20,
36:19	36:15	15:22
disputed [1] - 19:8	England [1] - 27:21	falsely [2] - 4:2, 19:23 family [5] - 30:12,
disregard [1] - 25:17	entire [2] - 20:24,	32:9, 34:15, 37:13,
disseminated [1] -	35:16	37:24
32:7	entitled [3] - 1:11,	far [7] - 3:7, 4:7, 7:10,
DISTRICT [2] - 1:1, 1:2	21:25, 40:2	8:20, 9:7, 32:17
District [3] - 1:13,	Eric [2] - 10:6, 10:8	father [1] - 31:21
26:23, 41:6	especially [4] - 10:4,	fault [2] - 18:19
docket [1] - 3:7	15:23, 15:24, 32:19	February [1] - 5:10
dollar [1] - 31:10	Esquire [3] - 1:19,	felt [1] - 30:24
done [2] - 10:10, 25:8	1:19, 1:22	fighter [2] - 7:15, 28:4
down [3] - 22:7, 27:10,	essence [1] - 22:2	fighting [2] - 5:2, 26:6
27:12	established [2] - 9:3	figure [1] - 24:21
downward [2] - 7:7,	European [2] - 29:3,	filed [1] - 26:23
23:2	29:10	final [1] - 20:21
drawn [1] - 4:12	events [2] - 15:8, 21:6	financial [1] - 39:12
drive [1] - 13:13	eventually [2] - 7:3, 13:8	financier [1] - 5:1
drives [1] - 13:14		fine [2] - 3:10, 39:13
dropped [1] - 29:24	evidence [2] - 9:7, 20:24	finish [1] - 40:1
drove [1] - 25:12	exactly [5] - 3:9,	finishes [1] - 39:23
drug [1] - 39:9	14:22, 16:24, 17:1,	finite [1] - 7:17
due [1] - 26:5	17:13	fire [2] - 28:7, 29:17
Dunno [1] - 11:15	examination [4] - 4:9,	firearms [1] - 3:22
during [4] - 3:3, 8:8,	17:2, 17:3, 17:5	first [4] - 2:20, 17:13,
17:20, 26:8	examined [1] - 17:17	19:8, 36:5
dynasty [1] - 27:13	example [1] - 7:1	five [1] - 8:25
E	except [2] - 13:21,	flat [2] - 31:13, 31:14
-	22:12	flushed [1] - 23:12
o_mail	excluded [1] - 20:21	focused [1] - 19:17

excuse [1] - 13:25

e-mail [5] - 6:19,

FOR[1] - 1:2 24:19 grenades [1] - 24:19 forces [1] - 27:3 forefront [1] - 6:17 grounds [1] - 4:16 foregoing [1] - 41:2 group [1] - 11:1 Guam [2] - 14:6, 14:17 foreign [10] - 3:17, 17:10, 17:20, 17:21, Guangzhou [1] - 5:17 17:23, 18:11, 18:13, guideline [1] - 19:3 19:19, 22:4, 37:17 Guideline [8] - 3:12, foreigner [1] - 37:14 3:18, 3:20, 21:16, **forth** [3] - 13:18, 16:6, 21:19, 23:6, 25:24, 19:20 36:2 guideline-related [1] forward [5] - 13:13, 13:19, 13:23, 13:25, 19:3 14:1 Guidelines [2] - 15:20, **forwarded** [1] - 9:6 20:8 guilty [1] - 38:13 frame [2] - 26:8, 26:12 guns [1] - 35:10 frankly [1] - 15:17 free [1] - 33:18 Н frequently [2] - 37:2, 37:3 front [1] - 11:6 **Haji** [12] - 6:11, 6:21, fuels [1] - 25:11 12:5, 12:7, 12:13, future [1] - 37:9 12:17, 12:18, 12:22, 15:24, 15:25, 16:11, G 16:13 half [1] - 30:11 hand [2] - 36:22, Gail [2] - 1:25, 41:10 General [4] - 7:10, 38:15 11:9, 11:12, 12:4 hands [3] - 28:15, 28:16, 32:4 general [1] - 34:19 Haniffa [4] - 5:3, 10:2, generally [1] - 38:2 10:3, 16:1 generations [1] - 30:1 happy [2] - 23:9, 40:7 genocide [1] - 18:6 harder [1] - 25:7 gentleman [3] - 5:2, hate [1] - 24:6 9:25, 11:5 hear [3] - 9:14, 34:9, Girven [4] - 23:18, 25:25, 28:17, 29:10 34:10 given [3] - 11:7, 11:9, heard [9] - 11:7, 11:13, 13:17, 14:21, 38:23 gloves [2] - 32:3, 32:4 20:24, 27:25, 30:21, 35:19, 36:13 glue [3] - 16:1, 16:3, held [1] - 16:4 16:4 help [6] - 5:6, 14:13, **Government** [1] - 1:18 14:14, 31:2, 31:24 government [17] - 4:4, hereby [1] - 41:2 4:18, 17:12, 17:15, heros [1] - 28:1 19:15, 23:15, 27:6,

himself [4] - 14:18,

Hindu [4] - 10:14,

History [1] - 23:5

33:1, 37:10

holds [1] - 30:13

honest [1] - 18:19

home [5] - 30:6, 33:2, 33:22, 33:23, 37:24

hit [1] - 30:8 holding [1] - 16:4

history [3] - 26:25,

32:9, 37:23, 38:17

27:17, 32:20, 35:21

28:14, 28:19, 29:14,

29:21, 32:15, 34:1,

35:6, 36:12, 37:11,

10:17, 18:10, 23:14,

government's [4] -

granted [1] - 7:9

great [2] - 19:14, 37:25

greater [1] - 39:16

greed [1] - 25:12

grenade [2] - 17:25,

39:20

28:16

followed [1] - 39:4

honestly [1] - 18:20 Hong [1] - 5:16 Honor [12] - 2:4, 2:18, 4:4, 6:17, 9:11, 19:5, 19:6, 23:11, 25:17, 26:16, 34:15, 39:22 Honorable [2] - 1:12, 41:5 hoped [1] - 21:3 House [1] - 29:2 housekeeping [1] huge [3] - 32:5, 32:6, 32:10 human [1] - 28:20 Human [2] - 28:25, 29:4 humanitarian [1] -25:19 hundred [1] - 23:21 hundreds [1] - 13:16

I

identical [1] - 17:18 identify [1] - 6:7 **II** [4] - 28:5, 29:24, 34:22, 34:23 illegal [3] - 25:12, 38:3, 38:4 immediate [2] - 10:2, 37:9 immediately [1] - 10:7 impact [4] - 32:5, 32:6, 37:22, 37:24 important [3] - 20:4, 38:5, 38:7 impose [1] - 39:11 imposed [1] - 38:12 imposition [2] - 2:7, 39.13 improved [1] - 24:7 **improvised** [1] - 24:3 **IN** [1] - 1:1 incarceration [2] -33:5, 33:13 incentive [1] - 7:23 including [4] - 20:14, 24:5, 31:14, 36:17 increase [1] - 3:19 independence [1] -27:20 independent [1] -10:21 India [2] - 27:11, 27:12 indicate [1] - 22:6 indicated [3] - 9:18, 32:1, 32:2

indication [1] - 10:18

indictment [2] - 2:24, 3:5 individual [1] - 6:20 individuals [1] - 6:9 Indonesia [2] - 5:17, 5:20 Indonesian [2] - 6:7, 11:5 Indonesians [4] - 6:4, 7:5, 7:11 inept [1] - 16:20 infection [1] - 32:4 **information** [1] - 26:9 initial [3] - 4:14, 17:11, 22:11 inspect [1] - 7:16 instances [1] - 19:12 interest [3] - 23:17, 24:22, 35:11 interested [3] - 13:2, 35:12, 35:13 Internal [1] - 29:1 international [6] -10:12, 10:24, 12:7, 15:12, 15:13, 30:25 internationally [2] -10:24, 33:7 intervention [1] -29.16 introduced [1] - 11:18 invented [1] - 28:2 involved [14] - 3:21, 4:21, 8:11, 8:25, 20:5, 20:14, 21:13, 23:20, 30:25, 36:7, 36:24, 37:3, 38:10, 38:18 involvement [2] -19:13, 20:7 involving [1] - 14:11 Iraq [1] - 24:5 irrelevant [1] - 35:8 issue [8] - 21:20, 22:1, 22:2, 22:9, 22:14, 30:2, 31:6, 39:10 issues [4] - 18:8, 19:3, 19:8, 36:4

J

itself [1] - 28:13

James [1] - 1:19 January [1] - 5:9 Japanese [1] - 28:4 job [1] - 32:2 John [11] - 5:12, 6:2, 10:22, 10:25, 11:14, 11:17, 11:25, 12:2, 12:3 Johney [11] - 5:12, 6:2, 10:22, 10:25, 11:15, 11:17, 11:25, 12:2, 12:3, 12:4 Jr [1] - 1:22 judge [2] - 9:14, 35:3 Judge [6] - 1:13, 2:9, 21:17, 26:24, 34:4, 41:6 judgment [1] - 40:2 July [4] - 13:12, 14:11, 21:6 June [1] - 8:18 jury [6] - 3:5, 19:16, 19:21, 22:6, 22:8, 24:23 justice [5] - 4:1, 9:15, 34:25, 35:1, 35:12

K

kill [5] - 25:1, 27:1, 27:3, 31:6, 35:10 killed [1] - 35:15 kind [1] - 35:24 Kingdom [1] - 29:1 knit [1] - 11:1 knowing [1] - 19:19 knowledge [5] - 18:12, 22:3, 22:18, 22:20, 22:23 knows [7] - 10:9, 10:10, 10:24, 12:5, 12:11, 27:25, 33:24 Kong [1] - 5:16 Korea [1] - 5:21

L

lack [2] - 4:13, 15:11

land [1] - 37:19

Lanka [12] - 18:2,

18:3, 18:7, 27:6,

27:9, 27:21, 28:14, 28:19, 29:14, 32:19, 34:25, 35:5

Lankan [6] - 18:9, 23:15, 23:25, 29:21, 35:6, 36:12

large [1] - 31:9

larger [3] - 23:24, 28:3, 28:6

lasted [1] - 17:3

laughable [1] - 13:10

launcher [1] - 17:25

launchers [1] - 24:19

lawful [1] - 25:19

lawyer [2] - 16:25,

loss [1] - 37:23

lower [1] - 6:21

lost [2] - 14:12, 31:8

LTTE [14] - 5:6, 10:1,

14:14, 19:18, 22:3,

24:8, 24:16, 24:22,

26:1, 26:11, 36:11

22:14, 23:16, 23:19,

31:2 lead [1] - 5:14 leader [8] - 3:25, 11:11, 14:25, 15:5, 15:23, 18:24, 20:3, 20:12 leadership [3] - 15:16, 15:17, 16:14 leading [2] - 13:24, 14:4 leads [1] - 15:8 least [5] - 4:14, 11:19, 16:11, 32:17, 36:17 leave [2] - 17:14, 31:19 led [1] - 6:14 left [2] - 13:18, 39:17 legal [1] - 22:2 legitimate [2] - 31:1, 37:2 lengthy [1] - 33:16 leniency [1] - 25:22 less [2] - 15:10, 24:24 letters [1] - 30:20 letting [1] - 28:22 level [10] - 3:18, 3:23, 3:25, 7:6, 9:1, 19:25, 20:2, 20:22, 23:2, 23:4 life [2] - 30:22, 37:12 lifetime [1] - 25:10 light [3] - 20:6, 23:13, 26:20 likely [1] - 37:9 list [2] - 5:22, 9:23 listed [1] - 28:19 listen [1] - 23:9 lists [1] - 9:5 literally [3] - 31:13, 31:20, 33:3 lived [1] - 11:16 living [1] - 30:22 loan [2] - 31:9, 31:11 local [1] - 32:2 longest [1] - 38:12 look [5] - 15:22, 20:5, 28:22, 29:20 looking [3] - 11:2, 16:20, 16:22 loose [1] - 11:1 loose-knit [1] - 11:1

М

mail [5] - 6:19, 13:15, 13:18, 14:10, 25:6 mails [12] - 5:13, 8:18, 9:3, 12:18, 13:1, 13:16, 15:2, 15:25, 16:10, 16:15, 21:3, 25:3 Mainland [1] - 11:20 maintain [1] - 31:24 major [1] - 39:5 man [1] - 35:9 mandatory [1] - 31:17 marked [2] - 27:7, 27:14 Mary [1] - 3:19 **MARYLAND** [1] - 1:2 Maryland [1] - 1:8 material [2] - 3:16, 19:23 matter [10] - 2:5, 2:6, 5:3. 8:3. 15:11. 19:23. 36:10. 38:5. 40:8. 41:3 matters [1] - 2:19 mean [3] - 8:16, 12:1, 27:24 meeting [1] - 11:19 meetings [1] - 11:19 member [2] - 24:16, 38:16 memo [1] - 9:19 memorandum [3] -21:24, 26:23, 27:23 mentioned [1] - 36:18 mercenary [1] - 25:11 merchant [2] - 24:16, 24:24 might [1] - 37:8 military [3] - 31:17, 31:18 million [1] - 31:10 minimize [1] - 4:11 minimized [1] - 19:13 minor [12] - 7:7, 9:19, 15:1, 15:6, 15:23, 16:7, 16:9, 16:18, 18:25, 20:24, 21:9, 21.14 minutes [1] - 17:3 missed [1] - 39:19 moment [1] - 18:15 money [16] - 7:19, 7:22, 11:6, 11:9, 11:21, 11:22, 24:10, 25:4, 25:8, 25:10, 25:21, 35:9, 35:13, 35:14, 36:21, 37:13

month [1] - 33:5 months [6] - 13:17, 23:8, 33:3, 33:21, 38:13, 39:2 morning [2] - 2:9, 2:10 most [4] - 9:7, 12:3, 25:5, 35:16 mother [2] - 31:25, 32.1 motion [1] - 3:3 **motivation** [1] - 7:23 moved [1] - 7:3 MR [27] - 2:4, 2:9, 2:11, 2:18, 2:22, 3:2, 3:9, 4:4, 4:24, 7:8, 9:11, 9:17, 19:5, 19:6, 21:17, 21:19, 21:22, 21:25, 22:25, 23:11, 26:19, 30:18, 34:18, 35:3, 35:18, 39:20, 39:21 **Muslim** [1] - 32:20 must [4] - 25:8, 34:2

Ν

NAIDU [1] - 1:6 Naidu [71] - 2:6, 2:12, 3:15, 3:24, 5:9, 5:11, 5:14, 5:18, 5:24, 7:18, 7:21, 8:1, 8:14, 8:16, 8:17, 9:6, 9:19, 10:7, 10:8, 10:9, 10:10, 10:16, 10:17, 11:7, 11:15, 11:17, 12:2, 12:6, 12:19, 12:24, 13:22, 13:24, 14:4, 14:9, 14:11, 14:22, 14:23, 16:8, 16:12, 16:14, 16:19, 19:11, 19:21, 20:12, 20:18, 21:11, 22:2, 24:15, 24:23, 25:3, 25:13, 26:5, 26:9, 26:13, 30:5, 32:6, 32:8, 33:19, 34:6, 34:11, 36:7, 36:19, 37:22, 38:1, 38:23, 38:25, 39:6, 40:1, Naidu's [4] - 6:13, 8:24, 32:25, 37:10 name [1] - 12:15 nation [1] - 29:19 national [2] - 30:8, 30:9 **Nations** [3] - 28:22, 29:4, 29:15

native [1] - 11:16

nature [1] - 36:5 Navy [1] - 24:1 necessary [1] - 39:16 need [10] - 2:25, 4:17, 12:20, 17:4, 17:17, 26:10, 33:11, 35:3, 37:25, 38:19 needs [4] - 25:13, 25:14, 34:17, 40:4 negotiate [2] - 6:21, negotiating [2] - 16:6, 28:21 negotiations [1] - 6:20 negotiator [1] - 20:19 never [3] - 11:13, 13:5, 18:20 new [5] - 23:22, 28:1, 28:3, 28:8, 28:10 newspaper [2] - 30:8, 30:9 next [3] - 10:6, 11:14, 11:25 **NO** [1] - 1:5 non [1] - 19:10 non-applicable [1] -19:10 none [2] - 13:21, 19:5 North [1] - 5:21 northern [1] - 27:9 Northern [1] - 27:11 noted [2] - 16:11, 40:5 nothing [19] - 9:20, 11:23, 11:24, 12:25, 13:22, 14:5, 15:10, 24:23, 28:1, 28:3, 28:8, 28:10, 33:11, 34:4, 39:20, 39:21 notorious [2] - 24:12, 24:13 number [5] - 10:13, 10:14, 10:16, 20:5, 36:3 Number [1] - 2:6 numerous [3] - 12:10, 34:6, 36:15

0

o'clock [1] - 35:23 obliterated [1] - 29:25 obstruction [4] - 4:1, 4:16, 9:15, 19:9 obtain [1] - 5:19 obtained [1] - 6:1 obviously [5] - 3:11, 7:22, 27:24, 36:6, 39:5 occasion [1] - 26:9

occur [1] - 34:20 occurred [1] - 15:8 occurring [1] - 18:1 October [1] - 26:12 **OF** [2] - 1:2, 1:4 offense [6] - 3:15, 3:18, 4:5, 23:4, 36:6, 38.22 offenses [1] - 8:6 offensive [1] - 26:11 Official [2] - 1:25, 41:11 old [2] - 31:23, 33:1 once [1] - 6:22 one [19] - 6:25, 7:24, 9:7, 10:13, 14:10, 15:7, 19:17, 19:20, 21:19, 23:6, 25:5, 25:6, 26:13, 26:20, 29:5, 30:9, 30:13, 35:3 opened [1] - 33:11 operation [1] - 12:14 opportunity [1] -24:17 opposed [1] - 19:19 opted [1] - 24:17 orders [1] - 12:22 organization [12] -3:17, 17:10, 17:20, 17:22, 17:23, 18:11, 18:13, 19:19, 22:5, 22:15, 23:20, 36:9 organized [2] - 5:24, 8:24 organizer [9] - 3:25, 4:19, 4:21, 8:22, 14:25, 15:5, 18:24, 20:3, 20:13 organizing [1] - 10:1 originated [1] - 5:22 Osman [26] - 5:4, 5:5, 5:7, 8:7, 8:9, 8:16, 8:20, 9:6, 10:3, 11:18, 12:2, 12:19, 13:8, 13:11, 13:14, 13:20, 14:1, 14:7, 14:21, 14:22, 16:2, 16:23, 20:14, 26:10, 33:14 Ostis [5] - 12:15, 12:23, 14:4, 15:14, 15:15 ostracized [1] - 32:9 outlined [1] - 25:25 outside [3] - 24:10,

29:16, 29:19

19:24

overall [2] - 19:13,

overhead [1] - 9:12

overthrow [2] - 27:6, 32:15

P paid [1] - 7:12 Pala [3] - 10:6, 10:8, 12:2 paper [1] - 14:17 part [3] - 4:14, 21:2, 35:16 participants [1] - 6:25 participation [1] -35:2 particular [6] - 15:10, 22:9, 22:13, 28:2, 28:15, 30:23 particularly [5] -20:13, 20:20, 21:1, 26:20, 28:10 parts [1] - 24:5 passed [1] - 26:8 passive [1] - 6:24 past [1] - 10:19 patriot [1] - 24:15 patriotic [1] - 7:18 peep[1] - 13:21 pending [2] - 31:19, 33:24 people [24] - 4:21, 5:23, 8:25, 10:21, 10:24, 11:1, 14:14, 14:17, 20:5, 25:1, 25:15, 27:1, 27:3, 27:15, 28:14, 29:12, 29:22, 30:4, 31:6, 32:19, 34:25, 35:1, 35:11 people's [1] - 33:10 percent [5] - 7:23, 13:4, 13:6, 13:7 percentage [1] - 16:24 perhaps [1] - 15:14 period [6] - 15:10, 30:15, 33:12, 33:15, 33:20, 39:4 periods [1] - 33:16 perjured [1] - 18:22 permit [1] - 39:12 persecution [2] -27:18, 27:19 person [4] - 10:22, 12:14, 16:1, 18:25 personal [1] - 25:12 personally [2] - 37:23, 38:1 persons [1] - 38:9 Ph.D [1] - 10:22

Philippines [3] - 5:20,

10:11, 11:20 phone [1] - 4:12 picture [1] - 20:17 pilots [1] - 28:4 place [2] - 6:12, 26:12 places [2] - 10:10, 23:23 planning [1] - 26:11 played [1] - 21:6 players [1] - 9:23 plead [1] - 38:13 plight [1] - 10:15 point [19] - 5:13, 11:24, 12:24, 12:25, 13:13, 13:16, 13:19, 13:24, 17:5, 17:19, 18:10, 19:17, 19:20, 21:7, 26:5, 32:18, 34:17, 34:18, 35:4 pointed [1] - 20:16 political [5] - 24:9, 24:21, 32:7, 32:8, 37:6 population [2] - 24:13, 27:22 possible [1] - 26:15 possibly [1] - 15:19 post [1] - 34:23 potential [3] - 5:25, 25:6, 26:14 precisely [1] - 8:8 preferred [1] - 8:15 present [2] - 2:12, 16:25 presentations [1] -36:1 presented [2] - 14:10, 24:18 presentence [4] -2:13, 2:14, 3:13, 3.23 presents [1] - 36:3 pressed [1] - 26:14 pressing [2] - 4:3, 4:5 pretrial [1] - 7:20 previously [2] - 8:10, 8:12 price [1] - 6:21 **Prisons** [1] - 39:3 proceedings [4] - 8:9, 31:16, 39:7, 40:9 process [1] - 14:12 proffer [3] - 17:11, 17:15, 22:11 proffered [1] - 17:12 prolific [1] - 15:25 prongs [2] - 22:17, 22:23 property [1] - 31:12 prosecuted [1] - 34:24

prosecution [1] -38:23 protect [1] - 37:25 provide [4] - 3:16, 5:6, 5:21, 7:11 providing [2] - 7:12, 36.8 provision [1] - 3:21 public [1] - 37:25 punish [2] - 30:3, 30:4 punished [5] - 15:21, 25:14, 32:13, 33:6, 34:20 punishment [4] -32:10, 33:6, 37:18, 38:6 purpose [2] - 25:20, 37:3 **purposes** [1] - 3:6 Purpura [6] - 1:22, 2:11, 9:10, 23:13, 26:18, 40:4 PURPURA [15] - 2:9, 2:11, 9:11, 9:17, 19:5, 21:17, 21:19, 21:22, 21:25, 22:25, 26:19, 30:18, 34:18, 35:18, 39:21 pushing [1] - 16:3 put [5] - 9:12, 9:22, 20:19, 21:24, 33:14 putting [1] - 8:23

Q

Qaeda [1] - 24:2 questions [1] - 34:5 quite [2] - 15:17, 21:1

R

Rachel [1] - 1:19 raids [1] - 28:5 range [5] - 3:12, 21:16, 23:6, 25:24, 36:2 rank [1] - 4:20 rather [3] - 8:16, 23:15 react [1] - 36:23 realize [1] - 14:16 really [6] - 14:19, 30:2, 33:16, 36:10, 36:14, 37:5 reason [6] - 9:1, 17:6, 22:12, 22:13, 33:18, 33:19 reasons [2] - 26:13, 39:14

30:20 recess [2] - 35:23, 35:24 recognized [1] - 37:4 recollection [1] - 12:4 record [2] - 3:4, 37:11 reference [1] - 5:20 referenced [1] - 5:12 reflected [3] - 3:8, 8:19, 25:3 refuse [2] - 29:14, 29:15 regard [1] - 8:22 regarding [2] - 8:9, 19:8 related [1] - 19:3 relationship [1] - 5:5 relative [4] - 20:8, 21:8, 36:11, 38:9 release [1] - 39:5 released [3] - 33:17, 33:23, 34:2 relied [1] - 19:15 religious [1] - 10:23 removal [1] - 39:6 rendered [1] - 7:25 repeatedly [1] - 4:11 report [6] - 2:13, 2:14, 3:13, 3:23, 28:20, Report [2] - 29:2, 29:4 reported [1] - 6:18 Reporter [2] - 1:25, 41:11 REPORTER'S [1] -41:1 reports [1] - 29:5 representative [1] -33:8 requested [1] - 7:8 required [1] - 39:11 requires [1] - 38:5 respond [1] - 18:14 responsibility [7] -21:23, 22:1, 22:16, 22:19, 22:24, 23:3, 38.14 result [3] - 27:18, 31:12, 31:19 results [2] - 25:18, 32:16 return [1] - 39:7 returns [1] - 13:21 reviewed [2] - 2:13, 2:16 revolution [2] - 27:6, 32.15 **ridiculous** [1] - 18:18

received [2] - 2:13,

rifle [1] - 17:24 rifles [3] - 24:19, 24:20, 27:1 rights [1] - 28:20 Rights [2] - 28:25, 29:4 role [29] - 4:5, 4:11, 4:18, 4:23, 7:2, 7:7, 7:10, 7:15, 7:16, 7:17, 8:3, 8:24, 9:8, 9:18, 9:19, 10:4, 15:1, 15:6, 15:23, 16:7, 16:9, 16:14, 16:18, 18:25, 20:6, 20:24, 21:6, 21:14 roughly [1] - 8:1 RPR [1] - 1:25 rubber [2] - 32:3, 32:4 Rule [1] - 3:3 running [1] - 12:18 ruthless [2] - 23:19

S

36:23 Santhirajah [9] - 5:1, 5:23, 6:18, 6:19, 8:4, 8:15, 9:25, 26:8 saw [2] - 25:20, 36:24 scenario [1] - 14:19 screen [1] - 33:15 34:2 second [1] - 10:2 sections [1] - 22:7 secure [1] - 7:15 27:16 security [1] - 7:11 sit [1] - 29:13 see [6] - 3:13, 19:22, 20:22, 21:14, 37:8, 40:7 32:7 seed [1] - 11:21 seeing [1] - 31:20 28:6 seek [1] - 31:2 sellers [1] - 8:23 selling [1] - 35:10 send [2] - 33:2, 33:21 sent [1] - 5:23 **sentence** [9] - 2:7, 30:3 25:23, 33:5, 38:12, 38:23, 38:25, 39:2, 27:12 39:16, 40:3 sentenced [2] - 8:11, 8:12 13:9 sentencing [9] - 1:11, 8:8, 9:18, 20:15, son [1] - 31:17 26:22, 27:22, 38:8, 38:10 **September** [3] - 14:7, 26:12, 30:16 serious [2] - 36:6, 38:5 seriousness [1] -

38:21 6:11 served [3] - 33:3, 33:4, sources [2] - 5:8, 5:25 33:21 South [1] - 24:12 Southeast [1] - 24:12 service [1] - 7:13 set [5] - 23:22, 27:8, southern [1] - 27:12 27:13, 28:7, 31:2 spearheaded [2] sets [1] - 26:24 5:18, 6:1 several [3] - 5:19, 6:4, special [1] - 39:11 23:20 Sri [18] - 18:2, 18:3, **sheet** [1] - 3:6 18:7, 18:9, 23:15, shift [1] - 8:17 23:25, 27:6, 27:9, 27:20, 28:14, 28:19, ships [2] - 28:3 29:14, 29:21, 32:19, short [2] - 33:20, 35:23 34:24, 35:5, 35:6, **shorter** [1] - 18:15 36:11 stand [1] - 8:5 side [6] - 7:4, 18:9, standard [1] - 23:22 18:10, 23:15, 39:18 started [1] - 9:23 sides [4] - 16:6, 26:25, starting [1] - 27:8 28:1, 28:11 State [4] - 17:9, 28:18, significant [1] - 7:24 silence [1] - 35:18 28:24, 36:12 **statements** [1] - 25:5 Simpkins [2] - 1:25, 41:10 **STATES** [2] - 1:1, 1:4 States [17] - 1:12, 2:5, simply [2] - 35:4, 2:23, 6:6, 13:11, 13:20, 17:9, 18:8, Singapore [15] - 10:4, 28:18, 28:24, 29:9, 10:6, 11:16, 14:9, 30:10, 30:11, 31:4, 14:23, 16:25, 24:14, 30:7, 30:8, 32:12, 32:18, 41:3, 41:5 33:8, 33:9, 33:25, status [1] - 6:19 stay [3] - 13:2, 15:2, single [2] - 14:10, 17:5 21:2 Sinhalese [2] - 27:10, step [1] - 11:25 steps [1] - 15:7 still [8] - 5:2, 17:7, sitting [1] - 31:20 17:22, 28:16, 29:13, small [3] - 27:14, 28:2, 32:16, 33:23, 33:24 sting [1] - 12:14 smaller [2] - 23:24, stoke [1] - 29:17 stood [1] - 7:19 stopped [1] - 37:8 sniper [4] - 17:24, 24:19, 24:20, 27:1 stopping [1] - 38:3 sold [2] - 31:15, 37:2 strife [1] - 26:6 someone [5] - 5:21, strongly [1] - 4:19 11:4, 15:14, 24:21, studies [1] - 10:23 Subandi [27] - 6:11, sometime [2] - 27:11, 6:15, 6:21, 6:23, 7:1, 7:5, 7:6, 8:21, 12:5, sometimes [1] - 37:5 12:7, 12:10, 12:13, somewhat [2] - 5:4, 12:17, 12:18, 12:22, 13:19, 13:25, 14:2, somewhere [1] - 8:18 15:13, 15:24, 15:25, 16:11, 16:13, 16:17, soon [1] - 26:15 20:16, 21:10, 21:13 **submitted** [1] - 3:5 sophisticated [2] substantial [4] - 8:2, 11:10, 12:11 21:12, 33:5, 33:6 sorry [4] - 21:17, 21:18, 27:19, 34:18 **succeeds** [1] - 25:9 **successful** [1] - 20:21 sought [2] - 5:3, 35:20 source [3] - 5:6, 6:10, **Sudito** [2] - 6:5, 6:10

suffer [1] - 35:15 suffered [1] - 37:22 sufficient [2] - 37:22, 39:15 suggest [2] - 18:17, 29:20 suggested [1] - 19:9 suggesting [1] - 15:18 suicide [3] - 23:21, 24:4, 28:5 supervised [1] - 39:4 supplier [2] - 11:5, 25.7 **suppliers** [3] - 5:14, 25:7, 26:14 **supply** [2] - 7:2, 31:5 **support** [3] - 3:16, 24:11, 37:13 surrendered [1] - 29:8 suspend [1] - 39:9 sympathetic [1] -10:15 sympathy [1] - 24:15

Т

Tamil [11] - 7:14, 10:15, 17:9, 22:3, 24:13, 27:21, 29:22, 35:20, 36:15, 38:16 Tamils [6] - 18:5, 27:11, 27:16, 32:20, 35:1, 35:12 ten [1] - 7:23 terms [3] - 20:10, 21:15, 37:21 terrorism [4] - 19:20, 23:22, 36:16, 37:7 terrorist [12] - 3:17, 17:10, 17:20, 17:22, 17:23, 18:11, 18:13, 19:19, 22:4, 22:15, 36:8, 38:17 terrorists [1] - 24:1 tested [1] - 24:6 testified [5] - 19:11, 19:23, 22:13, 23:18, 28:17 testify [1] - 30:21 testifying [2] - 4:1, 18:18 testimony [10] - 4:7, 4:14, 4:25, 5:13, 9:4, 14:21, 16:22, 17:2, 18:22, 19:24 Thailand [1] - 5:19 **THE** [30] - 1:1, 1:2, 2:2, 2:8, 2:10, 2:15, 2:21, 3:1, 3:7, 3:10,

4:20, 7:6, 9:9, 9:16, 19:2, 19:7, 21:18, 21:21, 21:24, 22:17, 23:1, 26:17, 30:16, 34:10, 34:14, 34:16, 35:17, 35:22, 35:25, 39:25

heory [1] - 38:17

theory [1] - 38:17 therefore [2] - 2:24, 23:7

thinking [1] - 14:9 thinks [1] - 39:18 three [4] - 10:16, 14:18, 22:7, 22:19 throughout [2] -23:23, 24:12 throwing [1] - 11:22

throwing [1] - 11:22 Thulasi [5] - 11:8, 11:22, 12:2, 16:2 Tiger [1] - 7:15 Tigers [4] - 17:10,

22:4, 36:15, 38:16 **Tio** [2] - 11:9, 11:12 **tired** [1] - 11:22 **today** [2] - 17:22,

29:13 together [1] - 20:20 tons [1] - 31:5 took [7] - 5:14, 6:12,

11:12, 11:13, 15:20, 18:9 **tortious** [1] - 26:24 **touch** [1] - 8:23

trade [2] - 38:4 traffic [1] - 13:18 transcript [1] - 41:2 travel [1] - 10:24 treatment [2] - 20:7.

39:9 **trial** [13] - 3:3, 4:2, 8:5, 9:20, 12:10, 14:20, 15:19, 17:7, 17:20, 20:24, 22:12, 31:20,

36:14 **tried** [3] - 6:6, 15:2, 37:12

trip [1] - 16:16 **trips** [3] - 5:16, 5:17 **true** [1] - 41:6

truly [1] - 30:24 trust [1] - 11:22

try [1] - 4:10 **trying** [5] - 5:14, 6:21, 8:7, 20:19, 28:7

turn [1] - 6:15 twice [1] - 16:11

twin [1] - 31:22 **two** [18] - 3:19, 3:23, 3:25, 4:5, 6:9, 7:6, 9:1, 10:14, 11:19, 19:8, 19:25, 20:2, 22:17, 22:22, 23:2, 27:15, 31:22, 39:4 **two-level** [7] - 3:23, 3:25, 7:6, 9:1, 19:25, 20:2, 23:2 **type** [5] - 5:8, 16:13, 25:11, 25:16, 32:24

U

types [1] - 27:15

U.S[1] - 23:14

U.S.S [1] - 24:2

 $\pmb{ugly}\, [4] - 29{:}23,\, 29{:}24,\,$ 30:1 **UK** [1] - 29:1 ultimately [2] - 20:11, 24:25 **UN**[1] - 35:7 unbeknownst [1] -12:5 under [8] - 3:18, 3:20, 9:2, 15:20, 20:1, 20:7, 36:2, 38:16 undercover [9] - 6:15, 6:23, 7:3, 12:9, 12:15, 12:23, 14:3, 15:8, 16:5 unfortunate [3] -18:23, 18:24, 37:1 unfortunately [1] -28:8 Union [1] - 29:10 **UNITED** [2] - 1:1, 1:4 United [21] - 1:12, 2:5, 2:23. 6:6. 13:11. 13:20, 17:9, 18:8, 28:18, 28:22, 28:24, 29:1, 29:4, 29:9, 29:15, 30:10, 30:11, 31:4, 32:18, 41:3, 41:5 $\textbf{university}\, {\tiny [2]} - 31.23,$ 31:24 unless [2] - 34:4, 39:7 unrelated [3] - 39:23, 39:24, 40:8 unsophisticated [1] -11:3 unsuccessful [2] -6:8, 21:12 up [10] - 9:22, 11:6, 13:16, 15:20, 17:21, 21:7, 31:2, 33:11, 33:15 updates [1] - 6:19

upper [1] - 25:23

upward [7] - 3:24,

3:25, 9:2, 18:17, 19:25, 20:2, 20:22 urgency [1] - 26:10 urging [1] - 25:7 useful [1] - 25:19

V

Varatharasa [7] - 7:14, 7:21. 8:22. 25:2. 38:13, 38:15, 38:24 variety [1] - 37:13 various [3] - 5:25, 6:13, 6:14 verdict [1] - 3:6 versus [1] - 2:5 vessels [3] - 23:25, 28:6, 28:7 vests [1] - 24:4 Vietnam [1] - 34:22 Violations [1] - 29:4 violator [1] - 28:21 violence [1] - 36:16 **voluntarily** [1] - 37:16 **VS** [1] - 1:5 vs [1] - 41:3

W

walking [1] - 12:22

War [5] - 28:5, 28:6, 29:24, 34:22, 34:23 war [36] - 18:3, 23:16, 26:4, 26:20, 26:21, 26:25, 27:2, 27:4, 27:5, 27:7, 27:24, 28:2, 28:8, 28:13, 29:6, 29:7, 29:23, 30:1, 30:3, 30:4, 32:14, 32:24, 34:19, 34:20, 34:21, 35:5, 37:3, 37:4, 37:7 warranted [3] - 20:23, 20:25, 21:14 wars [1] - 29:23 Warwick [9] - 1:19, 2:3, 2:16, 4:3, 17:16, 19:12, 20:15, 23:10, 26:17 WARWICK [12] - 2:4, 2:18, 2:22, 3:2, 3:9, 4:4, 4:24, 7:8, 19:6, 23:11, 35:3, 39:20 washing [1] - 32:2 Watch [1] - 28:25 waters [1] - 7:11 waves [1] - 23:22 ways [2] - 22:19,

weapons [21] - 3:21, 5:6, 5:19, 5:22, 5:25, 6:11, 6:22, 7:16, 9:5, 11:14, 24:19, 24:25, 25:20, 26:10, 26:15, 27:2, 36:8, 36:20, 36:23. 38:18 wearing [1] - 32:4 wears [1] - 32:3 whatsoever [1] - 33:1 whole [8] - 9:23, 13:4, 13:7, 13:8, 14:12, 18:8, 18:23, 19:24 wife [6] - 18:21, 30:20, 31:7, 31:8, 31:15, 32:1 willfully [1] - 19:23 William [2] - 1:22, 2:11 willing [2] - 22:21, 36:21 wisdom [1] - 36:12 wish [1] - 34:8 witness [3] - 26:1, 26:2, 28:17 word [4] - 24:7, 32:11, 33:7 World [4] - 28:5, 29:24, 34:22, 34:23 world [3] - 23:23, 24:5. 30:12 Wotulo [7] - 7:10, 8:21, 12:4, 14:7, 20:14, 20:16, 20:17 written [3] - 16:21, 16:23, 16:25

37:13

Υ

Wyoduno [2] - 6:5, 6:9

Yasser [1] - 1:19 year [2] - 30:13, 33:4 yearly [1] - 28:20 years [6] - 14:18, 16:18, 18:7, 31:23, 32:25, 39:4 Yemeni [1] - 24:1 youngest [1] - 31:17